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## **Unified Command News Advisory: Maywood Fire/Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident Response Update 6/21/16**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Unified Command for the Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident in Maywood, Los Angeles County, Calif. continues the response operations and assessment of hazardous waste in the aftermath of the fire that began on June 14, 2016. Unified Command is comprised of representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and the Los Angeles County Fire Department Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD).

### **Current response activities:**

- On the north side of E. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street a total of 17 parcels remain evacuated pending safe occupancy determinations by LA County health officials. These 17 properties include a mix of single family homes and apartment units.
- LA County is continuing to work with evacuated residents on providing short term housing.
- EPA collected air samples during the firefighting operations and documented trace levels of metals that pose a minimal health threat. EPA is continuing air surveillance operations, documenting background levels in air.
- Ash samples collected throughout the area — including a parking lot, the facility perimeter and the surface of residences — showed elevated concentrations of metals, including copper and zinc.
- EPA contractors have cleaned the following streets: Fruitland Ave. between Everett Ave. and Maywood Ave., Everett Court and 52<sup>nd</sup> Street between Everett Ave. and Maywood Ave.
- EPA is currently developing a plan to remove contaminated ash from the residential properties on 52<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- Decontamination of cars parked on 52<sup>nd</sup> Street has been completed. Car owners have been provided a voucher to take the car to a car wash for a thorough cleaning.
- EPA's Emergency Response Section and its contractors are preparing access roads into the burned facility to facilitate investigation of abandoned chemicals and an unknown number of drums. A burned debris pile will be treated with a soil sealant to prevent off-site migration of contaminants.

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